Class: 10th The Age of Industrialisation

1. Explain the following:

a) <u>Women workers in Britain attacked the Spinning Jenny:</u> In 1764, a British carpenter and weaver named James Hargreaves invented spinning jenny, a hand powered multiple spinning machine. The Spinning Jenny decreased the need for labour as it was capable of doing the work of eight workers. When the Spinning Jenny was introduced in woollen industry, women who survived on hand spinning lost their livelihood. They began to attack the machine to destroy it. The conflict over the Spinning Jenny continued for a long time and in 1768, a group of spinning workers broke into Hargreaves's house and destroyed his machine.

b) <u>In the seventeenth century merchants from towns in Europe began employing peasants and artisans within the villages:</u> With the expansion of world trade and the acquisition of colonies in different parts of the world, the demand for goods began to increase. But the merchants could not expand production within the towns because of the powerful control of trade guilds. These were the associations of producers that trained the craftsmen, maintained control over production and restricted the entry of new people into trade. So the merchants from towns in Europe began to move towards the countryside supplying money to the peasants and artisans persuading them to produce for international market.

c) <u>The port of Surat declined by the end of the 18th century:</u> The silk and cotton goods from India dominated the international market before the machine age. A large number of Indian bankers and merchants were involved in the export trade of silk and cotton. They financed the production, carried the goods and supplied the exports. The main centre of this trade was the port of Surat which connected India to the Gulf and Red Sea ports. By 1750 this network of trade controlled by Indian merchants was breaking down as European companies gradually power-first by securing concessions from local courts and then monopolising the trade. This resulted in the decline of old ports of Surat.

d) <u>The East India Company appointed gomasthas to supervise weavers in India:</u> The most important industry in India was the manufacture of cotton cloth. A Dutch merchant Francisco Pelsaert remarked that the finest cloth made of cotton was available in India which was in great demand in Europe and other places. In order to eliminate competition, to establish direct control over the weavers and ensure regular supply of cotton and silk products, the East India Company appointed paid servants called the Gomasthas. They were appointed to supervise the work of local weavers so that they could sell their yarn to the company only. They were loyal to the company. They also collected supplies and examined the quality of cloth. They gave the weavers advance loans to tie them down to the company.

Q.2. Explain what is meant by proto-industrialisation?

Ans: The period of industrialisation before the first factories came up in Europe was marked by merchants from towns getting products made in villages. The proto-industrialisation was a phase in the industrial development that preceded and created conditions for the establishment of fully industrial society. Proto-industrialisation is generally referred to the phase before industrialisation. It was marked by the increasing involvement of agrarian families in market-oriented craft production. Proto-industrialisation led to the specialisation in both industrial production and commercial agricultural production. It resulted in the accumulation of capital by merchant capitalists. It also sparked social changes in traditional agrarian societies.

Q.3. Why did some industrialists in the 19th century Europe prefer hand labour over machines?

Ans; The industrialists in 19th century Europe prefer hand labour over machines because of following reasons:

a) In Victorian Britain there was no shortage of labour as cheap labour was available in plenty, so they preferred labour over machines.

b) Some of the industries were seasonal and their production fluctuated. So they prefer hand labour rather than machines which needed huge investment.

c) The machines could produce standard products for mass market and could not match the high quality finish of handmade goods. So the demand in the market was often for goods with intricate designs.

d) The upper classes in Victorian Britain preferred things produced by hand. Handmade products symbolised refinement and class.

e) The new technology could not spread across the European landscape so easily. It was because machines often broke down and repairing was costly. They were not as effective as claimed by the manufacturers.

Q.4. How did East India Company procures regular supplies of cotton and silk textiles from Indian weavers?
Ans: After establishing political power, the East India Company successfully procured regular supplies of cotton and silk textiles from Indian weavers via a series of actions. They tried to eliminate the existing traders and brokers connected with the cloth trade, and establish a more direct control over the weavers. It appointed paid servants called the Gomasthas, to supervise weavers, collect supplies and examine the quality of cloth. It prevented the company weavers from dealing with other buyers. Once an order was placed, the weavers were given loans to purchase the raw material. Those who took loans had to hand over the cloth they produced to the Gomasthas only. They could not take it to any other trader. They developed a system of management and control that would eliminate competition, control cost and ensure regular supply of cotton and silk goods. The weavers had to sell at a price dictated by the company. By giving the weavers a loan, the company tied the weavers with them.

Q.5. Why did industrial production in India increase during the First World War?
Ans: Before the World War I (1914-1918) the industrial growth was slow. The war created a dramatically new situation. The Manchester imports into India declined as the British mills were busy with war production to meet the needs of the army. As a result Indian mills had a vast market to supply. As the war prolonged Indian factories were called upon to supply war needs such as jute bags, cloth for army uniforms, tents and leather boots and host of other items. New factories were set up and old ones worked with multiple shifts. Many new workers were employed and everyone was made to work longer hours. The industrial production boomed over the war years. Overall, the First World War gave a boost to Indian industries.

Q.6. Write a note on the history of cotton in Britain.
Ans: Britain had total control over the trade of raw cotton and cotton fabrics. It had established markets all over its colonies by selling the Manchester made cotton fabrics, which were cheaper than the hand-made fabrics.
Britain was able to make huge profits in cotton trade as it monopolised the international market.
The East India Company also monopolised the cotton trade in India and ensured that the Indian weavers did not supply to other European countries by giving them advance loans and appointing local gomasthas. So Britain had a steady supply of cotton from the Indian weavers which it sold in the international market for a very high price. Within England, the industrial growth began with the development of the cotton mills.
Thus, Britain enjoyed a good position in the world economy for over five centuries because of its control over the cotton market.